



## Idaho State Association of County Coroners Business Meeting Minutes

Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho | February 4, 2022

### Board Members Present

Lucky Bourn, Minidoka County, President  
Craig Rinehart, Cassia County, Vice President  
Dotti Owens, Ada County, Sec/Treas (Virtual)  
Warren Keene, Kootenai County, District 1 Rep

Sue Warner, Adams County, District 3 Rep  
Mark Rose, Power County, District 5 Rep  
Mike Ernest, Lemhi County Coroner, District 6 Rep  
John Buck, Gem County, At Large

### Board Members Absent

Perry Larson, Lewis County, District 2 Rep  
Gene Turley, Twin Falls County, District 4 Rep

### Education Members Present

Craig Rinehart, Cassia County, Vice President  
Lucky Bourn, Minidoka County  
Dotti Owens, Ada County (Virtual)  
Cody Funke, Idaho County

Scott Carver, Valley County  
Sue Warner, Adams County

### Education Members Absent

Debra Wright, Bingham County

### Others Present

Kristin Cundiff, IAC Director of Operations  
Torey Danner, Bannock County  
Lois Rinehart, Minidoka County

Ron Hodge, Benewah County

## I. Call to Order

Bourn called the meeting to order at 8:11 am on Friday, February 4, 2022.

## II. Legislative Update

Bourn informed the members that the big push this year in the legislature is property tax relief. There are also two issues that are important for coroners to know about.

Owens has been working with Kelli Brassfield at IAC to pass two pieces of legislation this session. With the increase in case loads and difficult identifications, next of kin notifications are taking longer. This proposal changes the coroner requirement to report cases to the Treasurer's Office from 48 to 72 hours. The draft legislation also addresses cremation of decedents with no next of kin to be done 10 days from the death instead of 14 days. The draft will be in Health and Welfare on February 9.

There is also movement from a legislator to change the mortuary law that affects who can run for coroner. Currently, the law states that if there are more than one mortuary in a county, the funeral director that is serving as the coroner has to resign from the position. The proposal would allow

counties over 20,000 (according to the US Census) in population to continue following the law but counties under 20,000 in population would not need to comply. The group discussed the pros and cons of this legislation.

Bourn indicated that the board voted to support the legislation with the mortuary last night. Garlock felt it was important for the entire group to weigh in on the legislation. Westbrook pulled up the draft legislation for the group to review and explained that she'd been talking with one of the Senators about it. Many coroners felt that it should be all or nothing but that's not the way the draft is written.

***Keene moved to support the law as written, Ernest seconded. Motion passed, Butikofer voted no.***

### **III. Coroner Wages Project**

About two months ago, Butikofer started looking into a salary survey to find out how elected coroners are paid compared to other elected officials in the county. He'd like to find out how many hours (average) coroners are working each week and is that comparable to commissioners. Many commissioners are part time and make more than the coroner. He's consulted with an attorney but the attorney said there isn't much data right now but there could be something if he continues to do his research. Butikofer consulted with the IAC Executive Director, Seth Grigg, but he was reluctant to get in the middle of elected officials. He did agree to more education for the commissioners. The group ultimately decided they would track their hours and we would discuss at the September Conference where to go next.

### **IV. IAC Board Representative**

Melcher has decided to step down from the IAC Board of Directors and the coroners need to elect a new representative. Bourn volunteered to run and asked if there were any other volunteers.

***Keene moved to nominate Bourn, Garlock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

### **V. Adjournment**

***Rinehart moved to adjourn the meeting, Garlock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***